

ANNUAL REPORT

1957.



On the Health of the
Rural Sanitary District
of the
Isle of Wight

BY

JOHN MILLS,

M.D., CH.B., M.R.C.S. (ENG.), L.R.C.P., (LOND.), D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT
on the
HEALTH OF THE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT
of the
ISLE OF WIGHT.

County Hall,
Newport,
Isle of Wight.
Tel: Newport 2261.

To the Members of the Isle of Wight Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1957.

The Birth Rate fell very slightly from 12.3 to 12.0, and the Stillbirth Rate fell from 31.3 to 18.7.

The Death Rate rose from 12.9 to 13.3.

The Infantile Mortality Rate fell from 18.4 to 9.5 (in 1955 it was 25.8).

The number of deaths from Cancer fell from 50 to 48. Lung Cancer accounted for 7 of the deaths, the same figure as in the previous year.

Four deaths due to Cancer of the breast occurred, one less than in the previous year.

Heart disease was certified as the cause of 75 deaths.

Two deaths were due to influenza and there were three cases of suicide.

During the year 83 cases of measles were notified but only 3 required hospital treatment. There were no deaths from measles or whooping cough.

No case of poliomyelitis was notified.

Only one case of food poisoning occurred.

With the growing campaign of vaccination against poliomyelitis, it is perhaps not too much to hope that we will see this illness go the way of diphtheria.

As the poliomyelitis vaccine becomes more and more available a time should soon be reached when one hundred per cent of the population are protected.

The use of the more common name for poliomyelitis, infantile paralysis, implied that the disease was one of children. While its incidence in the young was higher than in older persons it has been repeatedly demonstrated that immunity to poliomyelitis is not acquired simply by growing older.

The opportunity of gaining immunity against the disease by natural means is one of chance and is attended with such grave risks that the provision of a safe vaccine must be heralded as one of the greatest steps ever taken in the field of preventive medicine.

It behoves every man, woman and child to avail themselves of the great boon offered in poliomyelitis vaccination.

The principal disadvantage to the present system of poliomyelitis vaccination is the necessity for multiple injections to keep the resistance of the body at the required level. This is indeed a small price to pay for protection but research is continuing and it is hoped that eventually a safe, powerful, vaccine given by mouth will be available.

On 23rd August, notification was received of an outbreak of a febrile illness among the 345 members of a St. John's Ambulance camp at Niton. Apparently the infection had begun on August 18th, and spread so that seven members of the camp had succumbed by the 20th. By the 21st, the figure had risen to 14 and by the 23rd, 37 of the campers were ill enough to be transferred to hospital. Subsequently a further 5 campers became ill.

The symptoms of the illness were more or less uniform, headache, sore throat, generalised aches and pains, cough and fever.

Throat swabs and blood samples were taken from a number of the cases and subsequently confirmation was received that in fact these were cases of Asian influenza.

All the sick made a good recovery.

In September, a further localized outbreak occurred in the Approved School at Yarmouth.

From October till the end of the year, the children at school on the Island were affected on a fairly large scale but again, the illness was short and sharp.

There was one tragic death from this disease in a school-boy of 13 studying at a boarding school in Bembridge.

Altogether 423 cases of Asian Influenza occurred in the pupils of schools in the West Wight.

At about 10.45 p.m. on November 15th, the four-engined Short Solent flying-boat G—AKNU, owned by Aquila Airways, Ltd., on a scheduled flight to Lisbon en route for Madeira, with 50 passengers and a crew of 8 took off from Southampton Water.

At 10.55 p.m. the aircraft crashed into the face of a quarry between Chessell and Brook. The wreckage caught fire. None of the crew and only 15 of the passengers survived.

A public enquiry was held at Holborn Town Hall on the 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th and 27th of February, 1958, when it was recorded that “the real cause of this sad disaster is still, and must remain unknown”.

It does not seem to be widely enough appreciated that a cold room can cause death in the new born infant. This cause of infant death is not rare and is certainly one that can be prevented.

Cases usually occur during periods of very cold weather and generally after home confinements. A room temperature can fall very rapidly during the night when the fire gets low or even goes out or after an electric, gas, or paraffin heater is turned off.

The danger is at its greatest in premature and thin babies and where the baby's clothes and covers are not of adequate warmth. It is also naturally dangerous to bathe the baby in a cold room.

In all cases a steady temperature of 65° Fahrenheit must be maintained in the room where the baby is to be born and attended to.

In spite of the increased efforts to improve the hygiene of food in general, bread, the commonest of all foods, and one that is consumed uncooked, is frequently delivered in a dirty state.

Certain properties in the district have fallen into a deplorable state of disrepair because the landlord is unwilling to carry out necessary works while a grossly negligent or otherwise unfit tenant is in occupation.

The squalor which some even comparatively young people are prepared to endure is almost beyond belief.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act is a most difficult social measure to apply.

In essence its purpose is to deprive a person of his liberty for his own good in the main. The fact that this section has to be invoked at all carries with it the certainty that the person to whom it applies will not agree to voluntary co-operation with the services available to look after him.

No matter how humble, or dirty or verminous a home is a home. There is all the difference in the world to the old person living, in to what is to him cosiness, between his

home and the almost clinical cleanliness and necessary regimentation (at least to a certain degree), in the accommodation offered to him by the Welfare Authority.

One of the most serious and pathetic aspects of life today is the problem presented by the chronic sick in the community. It is not simply a question of old age, one person may be old at 50, another young at 30. At the moment hospital beds are not available for those who so desperately need them.

The people in most need of care are often those who value their independence and privacy most highly. In spite of great need they resent offers of help and especially any suggestion of their transfer to a guest house or hospital bed.

It is a disturbing sight to see a person living in extremes of squalor and privation, cold and suffering from malnutrition with bedding in rags and tatters and yet bitterly resenting any official efforts to alleviate their suffering.

The greatest tact and gentleness is needed in approaching these patients.

In the older individuals with chronic illness they frequently have additional burdens to bear.

Their sight is often failing, making them naturally more prone to accidents in the home.

Their sense of smell deteriorates so that they are especially liable to suffer from accidents involving coal gas.

An outside lavatory presents a cruel, additional hazard and their struggle is increased by their need to carry fuel and especially in country districts by the need to dispose of excreta carried from the house.

A further problem facing the aged sick is often the difficulty in obtaining medicine prescribed by the doctor. The journey to the chemist and perhaps a wait while the prescription is "made up" often requires monumental effort, as indeed does the trip to "draw my pension at the post office".

One of the difficulties in this field is ascertainment. Anything in the nature of an Old Person's Register seems unpopular so that the degree of knowledge of need in the population, is to say the least, very patchy. Frequently, the services available to these persons are not known to them.

It is true that rapid deterioration frequently follows the death of a spouse, so that perhaps it would be an advantage if a Health Visitor were to call on the family when a death is notified, so that, if required, necessary aid may be rendered or at least the available services made known to the survivor.

This is a great human problem which is worthy of all our efforts. It is of little use prolonging human life with the latest medical discoveries if the prolongation simply means an attenuated existence of cold, squalor and perhaps above all, loneliness.

It is not possible to stop the process of ageing, but changes commonly regarded as the result of age may not have their causation merely in the passage of time.

These changes are overt manifestations of multiple damaging influences under which the patient has lived his life. They represent the sum of his experiences with health and disease and, as such, may to some extent be modified.

A patient's history is of paramount importance. Familial tendencies towards diseases such as diabetes or cardiovascular diseases must be considered. Occupational hazards may be pin-pointed and harmful habits may be brought to notice and eliminated.

Obesity does not usually trouble those who are truly aged because the obese die relatively young as a result of hypertension, diabetes or degenerative disease of the blood vessels.

Starvation is seldom met with today but selective malnutrition without actual starvation is not uncommon. This condition causes only obscure changes in the early stages and is frequently overlooked.

The relatively common practice of the use of large amounts of mineral oil by the aged is an example of a procedure which may result in additional conditioned nutritional deficiency.

Iron deficiency anaemia is fairly common as a result of the familiar "biscuits and milk" diet which is so trouble-free to prepare.

For women, the late fifties and early sixties are particularly hazardous from the nutritional standpoint. At this time the family group is often reduced, outside interests are restricted and stimulation of new interests is lacking.

As long ago as 1906 an attempt was made to deal generally with the educational aspect of the cancer problem. Since then sporadic attempts have been made to nibble at the subject.

Outside the medical profession nobody wished to discuss it or to know anything about it, largely because of the widespread conviction that nothing could be done for it. The adoption of the ostrich-like policy of ignoring cancer and its dangers led every member of the community to hope that, whatever happened to his neighbours, he himself would not be the unlucky one to be attacked.

Even today it is a subject which one must ponder very deeply before discussing. Fear of cancer can produce very great mental anguish and psychological disturbance.

Early diagnosis of cancer in accessible sites gives rise to hope of cure.

Should the public be told the early signs and symptoms of cancer in its various stages ?

In the present state of cancer knowledge it seems that extensive cancer education might well do more harm than good.

The relationship between cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung appears to the experts to be significant. A vigorous campaign against smoking is urged especially aimed at the young.

The efforts against smoking, however, seem puny when children are nightly bombarded with high pressure cigarette sales-talk from their television screens.

Health Propaganda to be effective must obviously be as powerful, if not more powerful, than its adversary.

In the United States, certain Health Authorities have their own television programmes through which they can hammer out high powered propaganda on all aspects of prevention of ill health. It seems a pity that the great power of television for good cannot be put to more use in this country.

At least so far as adults are concerned, since the scare of cancer of the lung has been raised, they seem to have increased the number of cigarettes they smoke, not reduced them.

Short of positive prohibitive action, which I hardly see likely ever to take place, smoking will continue, but smokers must be aware that they are taking a calculated risk.

Supposing it were discovered that tea drinking produces cancer of the stomach. It would indeed be a monumental task to eradicate tea drinking in this country. It is likely that the calculated risk would be taken.

The release of the first atomic bombs followed by their development and increase in destructive power has brought a new awareness of radioactivity and its dangers but it is not yet fully realised to what extent we are continually exposed to external radiations of natural origin.

Their effects are in addition to those of the small but measurable quantities of radio-active substances that normally accumulate in our bodies.

In the earth's outer crust radio-active materials are plentiful but because they are widely dispersed they are well diluted. A square mile of surface soil one foot thick is estimated to contain an average of one gram of radium, three tons of uranium and six tons of thorium, all of which are radio-active. From the realms of outer space we are bombarded by penetrating radio-active cosmic rays and even the air we breathe contains minute amounts of radon and thoron—gaseous decay products of radium, uranium and thorium from the earth.

Food and water, especially water from wells and mineral springs, also contain traces of radio-active substances in measurable amounts but these quantities are very small and apparently harmless.

Even man-made structures of wood, brick or concrete give off small quantities of radio-activity and interior walls of plaster are sufficiently radio-active to effect the function of detecting instruments.

To all this natural background radiation man has now added a phenomenal output of his own and even the experts who control the artificial sources are not infallible as may be demonstrated by the Windscale Accident.

It is true that we can never avoid exposure to radio-activity but now that we are beginning to create it, we must at least understand and try to regulate it.

It would seem a logical step for a figure to be established recording the standard natural background radiation for each district. A regular measurement of this level might be kept and any rise in the level to be reported on and accounted for.

In addition radio-active sources such as the isotopes used in medicine and increasingly in industry should, in my opinion never enter into the area controlled by a Medical Officer of Health without his notification.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, my fellow officers in other departments for their assistance, also Messrs. Smith and Lewis and their Staff for their enthusiastic help and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1957.

Medical Officer of Health :

John Mills, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Public Health Inspectors :—

C. V. Smith, M.R.S.H., M.A.R.D.C.S.
L. J. Lewis, A.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's figures)	17,560
Area (in acres)	58,127
Number of habitable houses end of 1957	6,640
Rateable Value, as at 1st April, 1957	£224,607
Sum represented by a penny rate (1956-57)	£944

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.0
Comparative factor	1.15
Comparative Birth rate	13.8
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	18.7
Crude Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.3
Comparative factor	0.76
Comparative Death rate	10.1
Death rate from Puerperal causes per 1,000 (live and still births)	Nil
Death rate of infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	9.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	9.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	48

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<i>Cause.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	14
Leukæmia, aleukaemia	—	1
Diabetes	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	20
Coronary disease, angina	19	15
Hypertension with heart disease	3	5
Other heart disease	14	19
Other circulatory disease	3	4
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	2	5
Bronchitis	7	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	14
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
All other accidents	—	2
Suicide	1	2
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All causes	116	117

EAST WIGHT.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Public water supplies over the whole area are provided by the Isle of Wight Water Board—an Authority which is responsible for supplies to the whole Island.

There were one or two instances of shortage of water in the Bembridge camping area owing to the heavy demand made during the month of August. Apart from this, the Public water supply can be considered as satisfactory.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Public conveniences are provided at Bembridge, Brading, Niton and Godshell. All public conveniences are small and are maintained by part-time attendants.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Main sewerage systems are provided in Apse Heath, Bembridge, Brading, Chillerton, Godshell, Niton and Whitwell.

NITON SEWERAGE.

At Niton an extension of the sewer was made to serve 7 existing houses and the Council Housing Estate being opened in Allotment Road.

BLACKGANG SEWERAGE.

The sewerage system serving the hamlet of Blackgang, the Chine, and adjacent buildings consists of a system of pipes discharging into a sedimentation tank situated at the head of the Chine, with an overflow into a watercourse running through the Chine. The system, some 50-60 years old, was originally privately owned but was taken over by the Rural District Council as a sewer some years ago.

It has given rise to serious nuisance and it has been decided to replace the whole system.

A scheme comprising of the construction of a pumping station near the existing settlement tank and about 2,500 feet of outfall sewer discharging to a new sewage purification works to the west of the Chine, is being prepared, the Ministry having indicated that they would be prepared to approve the general details of the scheme.

DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE.

Apse Heath to newly constructed disposal works.

Bembridge to 2 sewer outfalls—one at Ethel Point and the other at the mouth of the Harbour.

Harbour Outfall :

Considerable trouble was experienced due to the continual silting up of the Harbour Outfall and it was with increasing difficulty that this system was kept in operation. The scheme at present under consideration will put this outfall out of service.

Ethel Point Outfall :

This outfall continued to operate, and apart from surcharging at times of storm, gave no trouble in operation. The new scheme provides for the replacement of this outfall by one of larger capacity which will follow the same lines. During August, at certain stages of the tide and with a fairly strong on shore wind, sewage was washed on to the shore. This gave rise to strong complaints from holiday makers but unfortunately there was no remedy.

NOTE :

The new scheme which was put in hand early in 1958 provides for the whole of the sewage from the Harbour Outfall to be diverted to Ethel Point—an increase in

discharge of 30-40 per cent. The first stage of the scheme provides for :

(1) The diversion of discharge from the Harbour to Ethel Point ;

(2) The enlarging of the Ethel Point Outfall. The second stage— not yet put in hand— provides for a “holder tank” to enable the discharge through the Ethel Point Outfall to be held up during those stages in the tide cycle when a discharge on to the foreshore is possible.

Brading.

Since the provision of the Humus Tank there has been no further silting or pollution of the outfall ditch.

Chillerton.

By land irrigation settlement tanks and land irrigation beds.

Godshill. —	} To disposal works (settlement tanks and filter).
Niton. —	
Whitwell. —	

Small Sewage Purification Plants : are provided for a number of the Council's Housing Estates :

The Bower, Newchurch

West View, Chale

Hazely Combe, Arreton

Langbridge, Newchurch

Merstone

St. George's View, Rookley

and two new purification plants were constructed at :

Southview, Chale Green (8 houses)

St. George's View, Rookley (2 houses).

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The refuse collection service continued to function in a satisfactory manner. The service covers the whole district. A weekly collection is given in Brading and Bembridge, and a fortnightly collection in all other parts of the district.

	<i>No. of Vehicles.</i>	<i>Refuse Collected. Cubic yds.</i>	<i>No. of Vehicle Loads.</i>	<i>Total Mileage.</i>	<i>Disposal of Refuse.</i>
East Wight	One full time in Bembridge and Brading One spends half time in East Wight, half time in West Wight	No figures		13,666	1.—Tip at Yaverland, Brading 2.—Tip at Bleakdown, Godshill

CESSPIT EMPTYING SERVICE.

East Wight.

The Council do not own a cesspit emptier but hire a machine when required from Ryde, Sandown or Ventnor. A routine service was not in operation but pits were emptied upon application :—

1. If they had not been emptied during the past twelve months.
2. If they were overflowing or likely to overflow in the near future.

Total number of cesspits emptied—210.

HOSTELS.

East Wight.

Y.H.A. Hostel, Whitwell. Main Water. Drainage to cesspool. Public refuse collection.

HUTTED CAMPS.

East Wight.

Nil.

HOUSING.

East Wight.

SCHEDULE.

Parish			Council Houses completed 1957	Under construction 31st December, 1957
South Arreton	...	...	5	—
Bembridge	...	..	—	—
Brading	...	...	6	—
Chale	...	...	—	—
Gatcombe	...	...	—	—
Godshill	...	...	—	—
Newchurch	...	...	—	—
Niton	...	...	—	—

Slum Clearance.

Demolition orders made	...	...	...	...	None
Number of houses reported as unfit and incapable of being made fit at a reasonable cost	...	...	...	...	15
Number of undertakings accepted from owners not to relet until house made fit	...	...	..	...	10
Number of occupiers rehoused	...	..	...	...	5
Number of houses still in occupation	...	...	...	...	9
Number of houses made fit and re-occupied, on cancellation of undertaking	...	...	...	...	1

Improvement Grants.

The Rural District Council continued their policy of making Improvement Grants, and during the year 24 grants were made.

The amount of grant made was 50 per cent of total estimated cost of works of £10,552.

Assisted House Purchase and Loans to carry out repairs.

The Council continued to make advance on loans for house purchase and to enable repairs to be carried out.

Under this scheme loans were made in respect of 65 properties and the approximate total amount advanced was £77,230. (These figures relate to **East and West Wight**).

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS--CAMPING SITES.

Ten licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings were issued, providing accommodation for approximately 700 caravans.

The main camping area in the East Wight is in Bembridge. One large site accommodating 250-300 caravans is provided with main water, main drainage, ample public conveniences and showers, and has shop and cafeteria situated upon it. In addition, this site has a large public hall, cinema and camp office. Caravans are owned by various individuals and let weekly throughout the season. This is a well run camp with good service.

One other large camp accommodating about 250 caravans and a number of tents is provided with main sewer, public convenience blocks, and water from stand pipes.

In addition to caravans, there are well over 1,000 members of the Boys' Brigade and other Youth Organisations who set up tented camps in the Bembridge area. There is a good spirit of co-operation between the camp organisers and the R.D.C. officials.

FOOD POISONING.

During the year one enquiry was made into a suspected food poisoning outbreak at one of the County Schools.

WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

East Wight.

Total number of visits of inspection made	...	...	1921
Houses inspected	...	...	79
Houses re-inspected	...	...	187
Cowstables and dairies	...	...	15
Food preparing premises	...	...	261
Meat and other foods inspection	...	...	98
Drains and sewers	...	...	159
Water supplies	...	...	47
Refuse collection	...	...	197
Various	...	...	416
New buildings and alterations	...	...	462

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, Parts I and VIII administered by the District Council:

East Wight.

1. INSPECTIONS (Part I of the Act).

For purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	31	12		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	37	4	
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)				
Total	60	79	4	

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

<i>Particulars</i>				<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>	
				<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	...			1	1
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
Unsuitable or Defective	...			3	3
				—	—
Total	...	...	...	4	4
				—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT (Outwork—Sections 110 and 111).

Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food dealt with during the year :—

Home Killed Meat	...	...	...	48 lb.
Imported Meat	...	...	...	146 lb.
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	96 lb.
Tinned Eggs	...	...	...	—
Canned Meat	...	...	...	254 lb.
Fish ...	...	...	...	—
Other Goods	...	...	...	58 lb.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

Legal proceedings were taken against the occupier of a food premises. The premises were opened on 1st May and it was not until August that the case was before the Magistrates. Summonses were taken out against the occupier in respect of :—

- 1) Sanitary convenience so placed that offensive odours could penetrate into food room ;
- 2) Sanitary convenience not suitably lighted and ventilated ;
- 3) Food room communicating directly with sanitary convenience ;
- 4) Failure to provide wash hand basins ;
- 5) Failure to provide hot water to wash hand basins ;
- 6) Failure to provide soap, towel and nail brush ;
- 7) Failure to provide hot water to sink for washing equipment ;
- 8) Failure to provide soap or detergent and clean cloths ;
- 9) Allowing food room to communicate directly with sleeping place.

Convictions were obtained in respect of numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9. Fines to the extent of £16 10s. 0d. were inflicted.

The Council's application to close the premises until they had been made fit was refused, and summonses in respect of items 5, 6 and 7 were dismissed.

In summing up, the Chairman of the Bench said that these offences were of a serious nature but feeling considerable sympathy with the defendant, they were imposing small fines. If, however, the defendant came before the Bench again, he may expect heavy fines. The Council's representative asked, in the event of non-compliance, when it was considered summonses should again be taken out, and was informed by the Magistrates' Clerk that there was plenty of time between then and Easter, 1958.

It is however interesting to note that shortly after the hearing of the case the defendant disappeared, and that costs, fines and, incidentally rates on the premises, remain unpaid.

WEST WIGHT.

WATER.

The rainfall for the year was 30.00 inches, and the average water consumption for the West Wight area was 434,614 gallons per day, compared with an average consumption for the previous year of 417,694 gallons per day.

104 samples of both treated and raw water supplies were examined, of which 71 per cent were classified as satisfactory.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Public conveniences are provided at Freshwater Bay, Freshwater (2), Totland, Colwell and at Alum Bay (by arrangement with the Needles Hotel).

All conveniences are well maintained by a full-time attendant.

The increasing popularity of Totland Bay Beach with holiday-makers and the use of the Pier by Solent pleasure Steamers disembarking and embarking day trippers, raises the urgent need for the provision of Public Conveniences close to the Beach and Pier.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Main sewerage systems are provided at Freshwater, Totland, Colwell Bay and Yarmouth.

Most of the properties in Shorwell Village have been connected to the new sewerage system.

Disposal of Sewage.—

Freshwater: 18in. diameter sea outfall at Norton, extending 700 feet out from shore.

„ (Brambles and Monks area)—Military sewer sea outfall at Linstone Chine.

- Totland :** 12in. diameter sewer sea outfall discharging 150 feet from shore.
- Yarmouth :** Sea outfall discharging close to the shore between Yarmouth Castle and The Quay (Sewage is now being diverted from this outfall and will discharge by means of a new outfall near Yarmouth Pier and approximately 500 feet from the shore).
- „ 6in. diameter sea outfall taking the drainage of three or four dwellings at the top of the High Street.
- Shorwell :** By settlement tanks and aeration beds.

Small Sewage Purification Plants.

There is a small sewage purification plant at Shalfleet taking the drainage of some twenty Council houses and private properties.

Small sewage purification plants are provided at Porchfield and Thorley housing estates, and there is a sewage purification plant at Alum Bay dealing with the drainage of the Public Conveniences, the Needles Hotel and tea rooms.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

There is a weekly collection of refuse in the Parishes of Freshwater, Totland and Yarmouth, and a fortnightly collection in all other parishes in the West Wight. Refuse is deposited by controlled tipping on the land reclamation area on the east bank of the River Yar estuary at Yarmouth and at Churchill's Quarry. The increasing popularity of the West Wight as a holiday resort makes a very heavy demand on this service during the summer months.

	<i>No. of Vehicles</i>	<i>Refuse Collected, Cubic yds.</i>	<i>No. of Vehicle Loads</i>	<i>Total Mileage</i>	<i>Disposal of Refuse</i>
West Wight	One 18 cub. yd. used for Freshwater, Totland, and Yarmouth One other shared with East Wight	15,500 approx.	1,410	10,619	Yarmouth Land Reclamation Area and Churchill's Quarry

CESSPIT EMPTYING SERVICE.

Premises are served by a cesspool emptying lorry on hire from Ryde Borough and Ventnor U.D.C. Although the demand for this service is increasing, it does not yet warrant the Council purchasing their own vehicle to do the work.

Total number of cesspits emptied—153.

HOSTELS.

West Wight.

Weston Manor Hostel, Totland. Mains water supply, main drainage, weekly collection of refuse.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS—CAMPING SITES.

Solent Riviera Camping Site, Thorness (42 caravans). W.Cs. and wash basins to sewage disposal plant. Mains water supply. Refuse destroyed by incineration and periodically collected by Council's vehicle.

West Wight Country Club and Caravan Site, Totland (8 caravans). W.Cs. and wash basins, with drainage to Council's sewer. Mains water supply. Weekly collection of refuse. (Temporary licence).

Mountfield Caravan Park, Norton Green, Freshwater (30 caravans). W.Cs. and wash basins with drainage to

Council's sewer. Mains water supply. Weekly collection of refuse.

Grange Cline, Brighstone (8 caravans). Mains water supply. Chemical closets. Fortnightly collection of refuse.

The Orchards, Newbridge (8 caravans). Mains water supply. Septic tank drainage. Fortnightly collection of refuse.

In addition to caravans, it is estimated that about 500 members of the Boys' Brigade and other Youth Organisations set up tented camps at Cliff End Fort, Freshwater, and at Norton.

HOUSING.

SCHEDULE.

Parish	Council Houses completed 1957		Under construction 31st December, 1957
Brighstone	...	—	—
Calbourne	...	—	—
Freshwater	...	—	14
Shalfleet	—	—
Shorwell	...	—	—
Totland	6	—
Yarmouth	...	—	—

Private houses erected in East and West Wight—58.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

One property was demolished and three properties were closed in accordance with undertakings given by the owners not to re-let until the premises had been made fit.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

24 Improvement Grant applications were approved during the year and the amount of grant made was 50 per cent of a total estimated cost of works of £10,998.

ASSISTED HOUSE PURCHASE AND LOANS TO CARRY OUT REPAIRS.

The Council continued to advance loans on mortgage under the Housing Act, 1949, up to October (*please see East Wight Report for total figures*).

WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

West Wight.

Total number of visits of inspection made	...	...	2020
Houses inspected	...	...	120
Houses re-inspected	...	...	280
Cowstables and dairies	...	...	5
Food preparing premises	...	...	110
Meat and other foods inspection	...	...	35
Drains and sewers	...	...	301
Water supplies	...	...	10
Refuse collection	...	...	280
Various	...	...	385
New buildings and alterations	...	...	494

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, Parts I and VIII administered by the District Council.

West Wight.

1. INSPECTIONS (Part I of the Act).

For purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	63	19	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	4	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	88	23	3	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases."

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>No of cases in which defects were found</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	1	1
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) unsuitable or defective ...	1	1
Total	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

PART VIII OF THE ACT (Outwork—Sections 110 and 111).

Number of out-workers—130.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food dealt with during the year:—

Imported Meat	250 lb.
Canned Meat	20 lb.
Fish	56 lb.
Other Goods	35 lb.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS,
1944.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during the year 1957	221
Number of samples found to be positive	
Number of samples in which <i>Brucella Abortus</i> was isolated	18

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Total cases notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to hospital.</i>
Measles	83	3
Scarlet Fever	6	1
Diphtheria	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—
Erysipelas	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—
Pneumonia	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	—
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis } Paralytic	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis } Non Paralytic	—	—
Dysentery	—	—
Totals	101	5

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Meningococcal Infection	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 " " 3	—	—	—	—	—	9	1	—	—	—	—	—
3 " " 4	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	—	—
4 " " 5	1	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 " " 10	3	—	—	—	—	49	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 " " 15	2	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 " " 20	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20 " " 35	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
35 " " 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 " " 65	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	—	2	3	1	83	3	2	—	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.					Deaths.				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ „ 10	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ „ 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ „ 20	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ „ 25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 „ „ 35	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 „ „ 45	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 „ „ 55	3	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
55 „ „ 65	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	*16	11	3	1	1	1	1	—	—	—

* Included in this total are five transfers from the mainland.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified.	Cases.		Vision im- paired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
	Treated.					
	At home	In hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

